

## Rim of the Bay Progressive Hike Award

# Pinnacles

**Jurisdiction:** National Park Service, US Dept of the Interior

**Park Map** Download Map (pdf) (last modified 10/1999 )

**Pinnacles Expansion Map** Download Map (jpg)

**Trail Map** Download Map (gif)

Line map of the trails at Pinnacles National Monument.

### **Administration:**

Superintendent, Pinnacles National Monument

Paicenes CA 95043

(408) 389-4485

### **Hike Length:**

9.5 kilometers (5.9 miles) round trip from the Visitor Center, across the High Peaks Trail and side trip through Bear Gulch Caves. This is the minimum hike to qualify for the patch. Longer trips are possible. See the discussion. A well-constructed, spectacular trail with some exposure. Cubs and younger Scouts should be closely supervised on the High Peaks Trail and in the caves. Flashlights for each hiker are required in the caves. Water must be carried as there is no water en route. Not recommended for summer as it gets extremely hot.

**Elevation Gain:** 400 meters (1400 feet)

### **Maps:**

Pinnacles National Monument. (Available at Park Entrance and Visitor Center.)

USGS - North Chalone Peak quadrangle

CSAA - Monterey and San Benito Counties or Sequoia

### **Directions:**

#### **East Side:**

Take Highway 101 south to Gilroy. Just south of Gilroy, turn left on Highway 25 through Hollister and continue south on Highway 25 for 30 miles to the turnoff to Pinnacles National Monument on Highway 146. Entrance to privately owned Pinnacles Campground is at 4 miles, National Monument entrance at 5 miles.

#### **West Bay:**

Take Highway 101 south to Soledad. At Soledad, take Highway 146 east for 14 miles to small campground in the Monument. Note: there is no road connection through the Monument.

### **Camping:**

This hike can be made in one day, but if you prefer to camp overnight and also explore the Balconies Caves, the following information applies.

There is a large private campground title Pinnacles Campground about 1 mile east of the Monument.

Excellent facilities including small store and use of a moderate size swimming pool (no lifeguard). Group rates (1994) were \$5 per person per night and \$50 minimum per site per night. During peak season (April, May, and June), they require combined Friday night and Saturday night reservations. Suggestion: Team up with another Troop, each take one night-- the campground is very amenable to such arrangements, and will charge each Troop only for the \$50 minimum or the number of Scouts. Phone (408) 389-4462.

There is a small campground on the West Side of the Monument. First-come, first-served, no reservations. In prime season, it fills up early Friday afternoon. The road is described in the Monument pamphlet as "unsafe for trailers or campers."

### **Reservations:**

Call Pinnacles Campground Inc. (408) 389-4462 or write to above at 2400 Highway 146, Paicenes CA 95043 for reservation/details. A deposit is required.

*NOTE: Some of the information in these descriptions, especially information about camping, may be quite dated. You should contact the appropriate agency to get the most current information.*

Information taken from:

Rim of the Bay Program Booklet

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Boy Scouts of America  
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San Leandro, CA 94577-1514  
510/577-9000  
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